sail
SUMMER ADVENTURES IN LEARNING

2025 Year in Review

Alabama community-based summer learning programs achieve academic growth for 13th consecutive year

Alabama communities continue to demonstrate that high-quality summer learning programs can reverse typical summer learning losses. Despite reduced federal funding for summer enrichment, programs utilizing the Alabama-based SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning) quality framework operated at a record number of sites across the state and delivered measurable academic gains.

SAIL by the Numbers*

Daily Attendance

85%

(Up from 82% in 2024)

Graduation Rate

82%

(Up from 80% in 2024)

Total Enrollment

2,979

(Up from 2,317 in 2024)

% of Students Eligible for Free- or Reduced-lunches

86%

	Average Pre-Camp Academic Level	Hours of Instruction
READING	39th percentile	48
MATH	38th percentile	41

Does not include outcomes from the new Alabama Alliance of Boys & Girls Club sites

On average, in the Summer of 2025, students in SAIL's statewide summer learning network gained:

2.1 months IN READING

4+ months total impact considering the average summer slide

1.6 months IN MATH

3+ months total impact considering the average summer slide

SAIL's Quality Assurance Framework

Research shows that students who do not participate in high-quality summer learning programs typically lose two months or more of learning in both reading and math. SAIL has identified 22 research-based markers of quality that help summer learning programs reverse this trend.

Overall Program Foundation:

- Combine school and camp elements for whole child development
- Community-based approach pooling shared resources and expertise
- Assessment and continuous improvement system with peer learning
- Stable, predictable funding for multi-year program excellence
- Strategic planning: fall program design, year-end funding, Q1 recruitment
- Academic growth measurement over time

Academic Programming:

- Nationally normed, formative assessment with pre- and post-testing
- Research-based curriculum aligned to state standards
- Certified teachers, 1:12 staff ratio, rigorous training
- Minimum 72 hours of reading and math instruction

General Programming:

- 150-180 total programming hours over 5-6 weeks
- Social-emotional learning and character development curriculum
- Physical activity programming, from sports to unstructured play
- Nutritious meals: breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack
- Unifying annual theme connecting all activities
- Affordable programming with transportation support
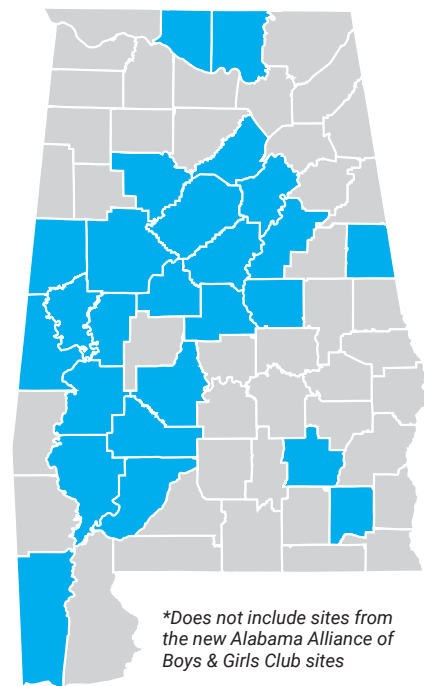- Strong enrollment, attendance, and family engagement practices

System & Community Level Support:

- Professional learning network with peer-to-peer education
- Comprehensive student and program performance metrics
- Public sharing of data within the community
- Structured peer review and improvement planning process
- Collaborative problem-solving and backbone organization support

Since its founding in 2012, SAIL has invested over $11 million in summer learning programs across Alabama that meet these markers, helping more than 24,000 students turn summer learning losses into gains.

Counties with Programs Utilizing SAIL's Quality-Assurance Benchmarks:*

*Does not include sites from the new Alabama Alliance of Boys & Girls Club sites

A record

46 programs at ▸ **73** sites across ▸ **25** Alabama counties

utilized SAIL's quality-assurance framework.

In addition to the 73 SAIL-affiliated program sites, this year there were 11 additional Boys and Girls Club-operated sites. This is the first year that all 13 organizations in the Alabama Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs adopted SAIL's quality standards. Four Boys and Girls Club organizations (Central Alabama, West Alabama, North Alabama, and Southeast Alabama) were previously affiliated.

Summer Adventures in Learning is a collective impact project that focuses on turning summer learning loss into gains. Learn more at **sailalabama.org.**

To view a list of programs receiving SAIL funding in:

BIRMINGHAM: sailalabama.org/birmingham/

BLACK BELT: sailalabama.org/blackbelt/

REST OF ALABAMA: sailalabama.org/outstate/

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Jim Wooten, President, SAIL Board of Directors
(205) 873-0795 • jrw1@bellsouth.net

Suzan B. Harris, Program Director
(205) 527-3193 • sharris@edbirmingham.org